bills are restored on payment of dues, normally on the same day or latest by next day unless the telephone connection has remained disconnected due to non-payment of telephone bill for more than six months. Such cases take some time for restoration, requiring approval of the competent authority.

Arm Supply in Delhi

1568. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned For capital's big guns, arms are for peanuts... appearing in the Indian Express dated 22nd September, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following persons mentioned in the news item have been allotted fire arms by the Government for amounts mentioned against their names:

Name	Amount
1. Shri R.L. Chugh	1100/-
2. Sh. Jaidev Sarangi	1000/-
3. Sh. Raja Vijay Karan	1000/-
4. Ms. Pratibha Karan	1000/-
5. Sh. K.J. Alphonse	3600/-
6. Sh. M.B. Kaushal	2750/-

The following persons have also been allotted fire arms but have not yet collected the same:

S/Shri

1. Ram Lal Rahi
2. R.K. Takkar
3. K.N. Daruwala
4. M.S.A. Siddiqui

In the case of Shri Siddiqui a request for cancellation of allotment has also been received.

Following guidelines issued by the Government in September, 1993 authorising State Governments/Union Territories to dispose of confiscated/forfeited fire arms and ammunition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi constituted a Price Fixation Committee in June, 1994 consisting of ADM (Judicial) as Chairman, Deputy Secretary (Home), Deputy Secretary (Finance) of the Government of Delhi, and three arms dealers, as members. Since the formation of the Committee the prices fixed for the fire arms allotted to different persons have been substantially higher.

Foreign Investment in Road and Ship Building

1569. MISS SAROJ KHAPRADE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign firms have shown keen interest in the investment in road and ship building industry in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to allow these foreign firms to invest in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign firms from countries like U.K., USA, Malaysia and Canada have shown interest in participating in the development of road sector. M/s Kavaerner of U.K. has shown interest for entering into Joint venture with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

(c) and (d) The proposals for foreign investment are at a preliminary stage and it is being examined at appropriate level.

Target for LPG Connections in Punjab

1570. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the target to provide new LPG connections in the country particularly in the State of Punjab upto the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what effective measures have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to strengthen the distribution system of LPG in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) New LPG connections are released in a phase manner throughout the country including Punjab, depending upon the availability of LPG, total new costomer enrolment, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

Actual enrolment and projections of new LPG connections during VIII Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) are given below:—

Figure in lakhs

Year	No. of new LPG connections enrolment (actual/planned)
1992-93	8.7 (actual)
1993-94	13.6 (actual)
1994-95	22.9 (actual)
1995-96	15.0 (target)
1996-97	40.0 (planned)

State-wise targets are not fixed.

The plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and augmenting supply through higher imports. New Import facilities for LPG are under construction at Kandla and Mangalore which are expected to be commissioned by October, 1996. New bottling plants and more LPG distributorship are being opened by Government oil companies to cater to higher demand.

In order to increase the availability of LPG in the country in addition to what is available through public sector oil companies, Government in February, 1993 decided to all allow the import and sale of LPG by private agencies.

In addition to 3 existing LPG bottling plants in Punjab, Government Oil Companies are planning to set up one more LPG bottling plant at Patiala during VIII Plan. In addition to 35 LPG distributorships included in 92-94 LPG Marketing Plan for Punjab, 41 more LPG distributorships have been included in LPG Marketing Plan 94-96 for Punjab.

Accidents Caused By Redlines Buses

1571. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Pioneer dated 11th May, 1995 under the heading "No drive can curb errant Redline bus drivers";

(b) the number of traffic violations and accidents caused by Redline buses during 1994 and so far in 1995;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the reasons of non-observance of any traffic code inspite of so many drives launched in the capital; and

(d) whether any deterrent action has been taken against any Redline bus operator/driver for causing accidents and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir, however, the said report appeared in the Pioneer dated 21-5-95.

(b) The number of traffic violations and accidents by Redline buses are as under:

	Traffic Violations	Accidents
1994	86,617	921
1995 (upto 31.7.95)	52,640	597

(c) As regards the Government of Delhi, no specific study has been conducted in this regard.

(d) Besides suspension of permits of Redline buses involved in fatal accidents, 6718 drivers were arrested and 4925 vehicles impounded from 1-1-94 to 31-7-95.

News-Item Regarding Hawkers Problems in Delhi

1572. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: